

THE LOCATION OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF AKKADE : REVIEW OF PAST THEORIES AND IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES FOR FORMULATING A SPECIFIC METHODOLOGY FOR SEARCHING AKKADE

Abstract

Around 2300 BCE, the Dynasty of Akkad founded by King Sargon established its hegemony over ancient Mesopotamia and the city of Akkade was founded as its capital. The precise whereabouts of Akkade have been sought by many scholars for over 140 years. Despite these efforts, it has still not been found. In the very early days of Assyriology, at the end of the 19th century, a tentative theory was put forward that for the first time proposed equated the two cities of Akkade and Sippar-ša-Anunītu. In association with this theory Akkade was identified with the site of Tell ed-Dēr. However, another tentative theory was put forward, that Akkade was simply another name for Babylon. From this view, Akkade was identified with Ishan Mizyad. However, various pieces of counter-evidence have emerged that undercut these proposals. Using written sources containing a range of topographical information on Akkade, it was suggested that Akkade may have had a close geographical connection with the Tigris. Three specific regions have been proposed for the location of the ancient city of Akkade, namely, the confluence of the Tigris with the Diyala and the Adheim and the region near the modern town of Samarra. However, no suitable candidate sites for the ancient site of Akkade has been found in these regions. This regrettable outcome may have been caused by the lack of proper and effective use of the topographical information contained in written sources that indicate the regional location of Akkade. This paper proposes a specialized methodology for identifying the ancient site of the ancient city of Akkade.